

supplies for students of Lake Wales. He also is a member of the Lake Wales Chamber of Commerce and has been a member of the board since 1998.

Epps has said that the mortuary business is a lot of hard work and dedication, but the rewards that come with helping people get through a difficult time are great. He is a firm believer in the adage, "The village raises the child," and plans to continue giving back to his adopted home for many years to come.

And for that, Mr. Epps, we salute you.

SALUTING AND HONORING RUSSELL DRAKE

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Black History Month, I want to recognize Russell Drake.

Russell Drake is the president of the Orange County Democratic Black Caucus. He is a Christian man, community activist, engineering professional; and he attended Howard University with a focus in systems and computer science.

Upon finishing school, he moved to Orlando, Florida, where he has worked as a systems engineer at two Fortune 500 corporations over the last 15 years.

Outside of work, Russell has a focus and passion for uplifting the community, leading him to be a very active member in the Orlando metropolitan area through individual and group efforts of service.

On his own accord, Russell is a supporter of various youth programs, mentoring activities, food drives, homeless empowerment initiatives, voter action rallies, and civic and political awareness causes.

Mr. Drake is part of the African American Chamber of Commerce of Central Florida, Central Florida Urban League Young Professionals, National Pan-Hellenic Council of Metro Orlando, NPHC, the NAACP Orange County Branch, the National Society of Black Engineers, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, and the Democratic Black Caucus of Florida.

Mr. Drake's active nature has earned him appointments to the African American Advisory Board of WESH 2 News Orlando and to the Boy Scouts of America, Whitney M. Young Council.

In spiritual life, Mr. Drake is a member of the Saint Mark African Methodist Episcopal Church where he serves on the trustee board, usher board, praise and dance team, and men's choir.

Last but not least, Mr. Drake regards his lovely family to always come first. For that, Mr. Drake, we salute you.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RECY TAYLOR

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Black History Month, I want to recognize Recy Taylor.

Recy Taylor was a 24-year-old African American in 1944 when she was kidnapped and raped maliciously by six White men in Abbeville, Alabama.

The NAACP sent a young activist, Rosa Parks, to investigate this travesty. Like so many other crimes involving African-American victims in this era, this crime was never brought to trial.

After reporting the crime to local officials, Mrs. Taylor was intimidated to recant by vigilantes, but she did not. Even after an all-White, all-male jury dismissed the first case after 5 minutes of deliberation, Recy Taylor, with the help of Rosa Parks and the NAACP, continued to organize and form the Committee for Equal Justice for the Rights of Mrs. Recy Taylor.

This committee had 18 chapters across the Nation and included activists such as W.E.B. Du Bois, Mary Church Terrell, and Langston Hughes. The committee lobbied Alabama Governor Chauncey Sparks until he called for another investigation.

In the documentary, "The Rape of Recy Taylor," Mrs. Taylor said: "... they didn't try and do nothing about it. I can't help but tell the truth of what they done to me."

Mrs. Taylor's acts of courage were one of the catalysts that led to the modern-day civil rights movement. She was also recently referenced by the famous and world-renowned Oprah Winfrey in her "Time's Up" speech and will forever be memorialized as a result.

Many of the members of the committee went on to plan and lead the Montgomery Bus Boycott as well.

Today, I posthumously honor this long-term Winter Haven resident in my district, Recy Taylor, for her act of courage and bravery, and for that I recognize you, Mrs. Taylor.

HONORING DESMOND MEADE

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Black History Month, I want to recognize Desmond Meade.

Desmond Meade is a formerly homeless returning citizen who overcame many obstacles to eventually be the current executive director of the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition, chair of the Floridians for Fair Democracy, chair of the Florida Coalition on Black Civic Participation, and Black Men's Roundtable.

Desmond is a graduate of the Florida International University College of Law. As president of the FRRC, which is recognized for its work on felon disenfranchisement issues, Desmond led the citizen's initiative to allow Florida voters to decide to end the disenfranchisement and discrimination against people with felony convictions, create a more human reentry system that will enhance successful reentry, reduce mass incarceration, and increase public safety by empowering those impacted by our criminal justice system.

Desmond spoke before national organizations, such as the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Bread for the World, on the challenges of returning citizens as well.

Desmond recently orchestrated a historic meeting at the White House between returning citizens and the President's administration. He was recognized as a foot soldier on the Melissa Harris-Perry show on MSNBC.

Desmond recently successfully got a restoration of rights amendment onto

the ballot which gives Floridians the right to vote to end this legacy of Jim Crow laws in the South that bar felons from restoring their rights after they have fulfilled their sentences and met their debt to society. We are one of only four States left with this terribly discriminatory law.

Desmond is married and also has five beautiful children, and for that, Mr. Meade, we honor you.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 4708. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to issue Department of Homeland Security-wide guidance and develop training programs as part of the Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign, and for other purposes.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 534. An act to prevent the sexual abuse of minors and amateur athletes by requiring the prompt reporting of sexual abuse to law enforcement authorities, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, February 7, 2018, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3890. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting an updated Strategic Plan for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation covering the period 2018 through 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 306(a); Public Law 103-62, Sec. 3(a) (as amended by Public Law 111-352, Sec. 2); (124 Stat. 3866); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3891. A letter from the Director, Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting the Federal Housing Finance Agency's Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2018 — 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 306(a); Public Law 103-62, Sec. 3(a) (as amended by Public Law 111-352, Sec. 2); (124 Stat. 3866); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3892. A letter from the Deputy Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Kentucky Regulatory Program [KY-256-FOR; OSM-2012-0014 S1D1S SS08011000 SX064A000 189S180110; S2D2S SS08011000 SX064A000